

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (February 10) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From February 2 to 8, three community-acquired LD cases were reported:

1. A female patient, aged 89 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Deep Water Bay Road, Southern District;
2. A male patient, aged 58 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Lane 2, Lee Uk Tsuen, North District; and
3. A female patient, aged 68 without underlying illnesses, who lives in Tung Tau Tsuen, Yuen Long.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of February 8 this year, 14 LD cases had been reported. In 2019 and 2018, there were 105 cases each year.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may become infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not

water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 μm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
 2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

Tender of 2-year Exchange Fund Notes to be held on February 19

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announces that a tender of 2-year Exchange Fund Notes will be held on February 19 (Wednesday) for settlement on February 20 (Thursday), as set out in the tentative issuance schedule announced on November 15, 2019. This is to roll over an issue of 2-year Exchange Fund Notes maturing on the same day.

A total of HK\$1,200 million 2-year Notes will be on offer, of which HK\$5 million will be made available for offer to members of the public who wish to submit non-competitive tender bids through Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited (HKSCC). If the Notes reserved for non-competitive tender are under-subscribed, the non-subscribed amount will be added to the portion of notes for competitive tender (initially set at HK\$1,195 million). The Notes will mature on February 21, 2022 and will carry interest at the rate of 1.52 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears.

Members of the public who wish to submit non-competitive tender applications for Notes that are open to HKSCC may do so through Stock Exchange Participants/Brokers, or for those who hold Investor Accounts of the Central Clearing and Settlement System (CCASS) at the HKSCC, directly through HKSCC, for submission to the HKMA for processing. Competitive tender applications for the Notes must be submitted through any of the Eligible Market Makers appointed by the HKMA, with the current published list available on the HKMA's website at www.hkma.gov.hk. Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof for both competitive and non-competitive tender.

The tender results will be published on the HKMA's website, the Reuters screen (HKMA00E), and Bloomberg. Applicants who submitted non-competitive tender bids through HKSCC may also obtain the tender results from Stock Exchange Participants/Brokers, or for applicants who hold Investor Accounts at HKSCC's CCASS from the CCASS terminal for CCASS Broker/Custodian/Participants and CCASS Phone System.

HKMA Exchange Fund Note Programme Tender Information

Tender information of 2-year Exchange Fund Notes:

Issue Number	:	02Y2202
Stock code	:	4079 (EFN 1.52 2202)

Tender date and time	:	February 19, 2020 (Wednesday) 9.30am to 10.30am
Issue and settlement date	:	February 20, 2020 (Thursday)
Amount on offer	:	HK\$1,200 million (up to HK\$5 million for non-competitive tender)
Commencement of/ deadline for submission of non- competitive tender bids by retail investors through HKSCC	:	Please refer to requirements as set down by HKSCC
Maturity	:	Two years
Maturity date	:	February 21, 2022 (Monday)
Interest rate	:	1.52 per cent p.a.
Interest payment dates	:	August 20, 2020 February 22, 2021 August 20, 2021 February 21, 2022
Tender amount	:	Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof for both competitive and non-competitive tender. Members of the public who wish to apply for the Notes through non-competitive tenders that are open to HKSCC may do so through Stock Exchange Participants/ Brokers, or for those who hold Investors Accounts at HKSCC's CCASS, directly through HKSCC. Members of the public who wish to apply for the Notes through competitive tender may only do so through any of the Eligible Market Makers on the current published list.
Other details	:	Please see Information Memorandum published or approach Eligible Market Makers, HKSCC, or brokers who are Exchange Participants of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Expected commencement date
of dealing on the Stock : February 21, 2020 (Friday)
Exchange of Hong Kong

Price/yield Table of the new EFN at tender for reference* only :

Yield-to-maturity Price		Yield-to-maturity Price	
0.520	101.99	1.520	100.01
0.570	101.89	1.570	99.91
0.620	101.79	1.620	99.82
0.670	101.69	1.670	99.72
0.720	101.59	1.720	99.62
0.770	101.49	1.770	99.53
0.820	101.39	1.820	99.43
0.870	101.29	1.870	99.33
0.920	101.19	1.920	99.24
0.970	101.09	1.970	99.14
1.020	100.99	2.020	99.04
1.070	100.89	2.070	98.95
1.120	100.80	2.120	98.85
1.170	100.70	2.170	98.76
1.220	100.60	2.220	98.66
1.270	100.50	2.270	98.57
1.320	100.40	2.320	98.47
1.370	100.30	2.370	98.38
1.420	100.21	2.420	98.28
1.470	100.11	2.470	98.19
1.520	100.01	2.520	98.09

*Disclaimer: The information provided here is for reference only. Although extreme care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up-to-date, the HKMA does not warrant that all, or any part of, the information provided is accurate in all respects. You are encouraged to conduct your own enquiries to verify any particular piece of information provided on it. The HKMA shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered as a result of any use or reliance on any of the information provided here.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, February 10, 2020 is 107 (down 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, February 8, 2020 was 107.2 (up 0.2 against last Friday's index).

Second-round application for Community-driven Projects under ICH Funding Scheme extended

The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department today (February 10) announced that the deadline for second-round application for the Community-driven Projects under the ICH Funding Scheme has been extended for two weeks to 6pm on March 16.

The objective of the funding scheme is to support local residents and organisations with relevant experience to carry out ICH projects with a view to strengthening the safeguarding, research, promotion, education and transmission of local ICH items, as well as supporting relevant transmission projects conducted by local bearers and bearer organisations. Through engaging the community's participation in safeguarding ICH, the scheme aims at enhancing the public awareness and understanding of, as well as respect for, ICH.

The scope of support of the Community-driven Projects covers projects related to the items in the Representative List and the Inventory of the ICH of Hong Kong. To attain the desired impacts of the Community-driven Projects, the proposed projects must be of a larger scale. As such, the funding amount applied for each project shall not be less than \$250,000.

Application information is available at the ICH Office website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/ICH0).

EMSD announces test results of LPG quality in January 2020

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (February 10) announced that the department collected eight liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) samples from auto-LPG filling stations and LPG terminals on a random basis in January 2020 for laboratory tests. The results showed that the LPG quality of all these samples complied with auto-LPG specifications.

The detailed test results are available on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/rl/lpg_sample_analysis_simple). Enquiries can also be made to the EMSD's hotline on 2333 3762.

In addition, the EMSD has been vetting independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies for each shipment to ensure that the quality of imported LPG complies with the specified requirements.